



Title of report: Motions on notice

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 5 December 2025

Report by: Director of Governance and Law

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To consider motions received on notice.

Recommendation

THAT: the motion listed at paragraph 6 is debated and determined by Council.

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options to the recommendation; the constitution makes provision for motions on notice to be debated and decided by Council.

Key considerations

- 2 The constitution provides that members of Council may submit written notice of motions for debate at Council. A motion must be signed by the proposer and seconder and submitted not later than midday on the seventh working day before the date of the meeting. A member cannot propose more than one motion on notice per meeting and a maximum of three motions will be debated at meetings of full Council.
- 3 Motions must be about matters for which the council has a responsibility or which affect Herefordshire.
- 4 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received unless the member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.

- 5 Up to one and a half hours will be allocated to debate motions on notice but that time may be varied at the discretion of the chairman.
- 6 One motion has been received and will be debated at the meeting. The motion for debate is set out below:

Motion 1 – Charter for the River Wye

(Proposed by Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst, Seconded by Councillor Louis Stark)

This Notice of Motion calls on the executive to support the following charter for the River Wye and tributaries:

The Right to Flow and Perform Natural Functions

To maintain its natural course and seasonal rhythms without obstructions or extractions that detrimentally affect ecological function of any part of the river system.

The Right to Biodiversity

To good biological health through the existence of balanced, diverse, and viable, populations of native species and habitats specific to the Wye and its tributaries.

The Right to Be Free from Pollution

To exist in a state of ecological health and not be subject to detrimental levels of known and emerging pollutants that adversely affect the life of the river.

The Right to be Supported by a Healthy Catchment

To flow through environments which support the river as a balanced, sustainable, and resilient aquatic ecosystem.

The Right to Regenerate

To recover to full ecological function through natural processes and for this to be supported by intervention, where necessary, to halt the decline in biodiversity and abundance and to increase both over time.

The Right to Representation

To be represented and have these intrinsic rights recognised in the determination of matters that directly affect the river's health now and in the future.

Updates – outstanding resolutions

- 7 The constitution provides that the report to Council, containing notices of motion on hand, will also include detail of progress of all outstanding resolutions. There are outstanding resolutions with respect to motions considered at earlier meetings of full Council; updates of progress against these resolutions are provided below:

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
7 March 2025	Minor Injury Units	Work continues with the ICB and partners to align the thinking on Minor Injuries Units with the emerging development of the neighbourhood health model. The model will support health and care provision at a local level by providing more joined up care for high-priority cohorts through integrated neighbourhood teams (INTs) and enabling early identification of emerging health issues, therefore making a material difference to patient experience and hospital demand.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>This Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Supports the reinstatement of Minor Injury Units in Herefordshire as soon as possible to alleviate pressure on A&E services and improve access to urgent care for residents across the county; and · Calls upon the Executive to work with NHS partners and other stakeholders to facilitate the reopening of Minor Injury Units in Herefordshire. 		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
25 July 2025	Securing Herefordshire's Role in the UK and European Defence Industrial Strategy	<p>Work has started on taking forward a plan to action this motion and build on current work to support the Defence and Security sectors in Herefordshire.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently finalising a Defence and Security Prospectus for Herefordshire, having established and engaged with a forum made up of some of the leading local businesses in the sector. 2. Drafted a letter to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Ministry for Business and Trade, which addresses the points set out in the motion, and which is intended to be sent in mid-October, when Prospectus is complete and can be sent, as supporting documentation. 3. Using the Defence and Security Prospectus, and associated collateral to plan to engage with UK defence primes and SMEs to promote supply chain expansion in the county, including potential attendance at defence and security trade events in early 2026.

		<p>4. Working closely with NMITE to encourage them to align training and apprenticeships with the emerging needs of the UK and European defence sector. NMITE have already been successful in attracting funding from AWE Nuclear Security Technologies, (the Ministry of Defence's nuclear capability partner), to be able to offer 12 fully-funded student places on their new BSc (Hons) Construction Management degree, to support the nuclear weapons sector.</p> <p>5. All engagement with the defence and security sector is underpinned by Herefordshire's values of environmental responsibility, ethical governance, and community benefit.</p> <p>6. A spin-off from the engagement with the local defence sector has highlighted that there is a need for a dedicated secure area for testing of military grade drones, so work is ongoing to explore suitable opportunities.</p>
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>This Council resolves to ask the executive to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Herefordshire Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Prospectus, highlighting the county's strategic readiness to host defence-related investment, including a munitions facility, with a focus on clean and sustainable manufacturing. 2. Formally write to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Ministry for Business and Trade, urging them to consider Herefordshire as a location for one of the planned new factories and associated supply chain investment. 3. Call on the Government to support rural areas like Herefordshire by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Prioritising infrastructure upgrades in strategic industrial zones; o Establishing an investment support scheme modelled on Enterprise Zones; o Fast-tracking planning for clean-tech and defence-linked developments. 4. Engage with UK defence primes and SMEs to promote supply chain expansion in the county, particularly for dual-use and green defence technologies. 5. Work with FE and HE providers to align training and apprenticeships with the emerging needs of the UK and European defence sector. 6. Ensure that all defence-linked investment is underpinned by Herefordshire's values of environmental responsibility, ethical governance, and community benefit. 		

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Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
25 July 2025	Housing Targets	The motion has been noted in respect of housing targets and will be taken into consideration as part of plan preparation. The Council has recently issued a 'call for sites' and this is the first stage in plan preparation to see what land is potentially available for development. If there is insufficient land to meet the requirements of the county over a 20 year plan period, a lower level of growth can be justified (a lower housing requirement). This will not be known until the 'call for sites' process has been concluded and all sites have been assessed.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>Whilst this council will – as requested by government – “make every effort to allocate land in line with our housing need, as per the standard method”, this Council fully supports our officers and our Cabinet in their actively seeking to “justify a lower housing requirement than the figure the method sets, on the basis of local constraints on land and constraints on delivery”.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
10 October 2025	Child Friendly Herefordshire	<p>Children’s Services have now completed the Child and Young Person Participation Strategy. This includes the planned development of a Shadow Youth Cabinet which will give our young people a voice into the council leadership and allow them to engage in and influence strategic decisions as recommended in point 2.</p> <p>As part of this work we want this group of young people to develop the future council policy so that is not just co-produced but led by this group of children and young people – this will address point 1.</p> <p>The partnership have also completed the children and young people strategic plan. Headline measures for the plan include communicating with the children young people of Herefordshire and listen to their reports of how happy healthy and safe they feel as residents of our county – as set out in our vision. This work and the development of this partnership forum and through the development of the policy will address point 3</p>

		The CEO and CLT will take Officer ownership of policy and its implementation supporting the leader to provide annual reports on progress.
<p>Council resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To adopt a formal policy of Child Friendly Herefordshire, embedding the principle of putting children and young people's safety and wellbeing at the heart of all decisions. 2. To ensure children and young people have meaningful opportunities to shape decisions that affect them, both now and in the future. 3. To ask the executive to work with partners across public services, schools, health, business, transport, community groups, and voluntary organisations to create a county-wide partnership for Child Friendly Herefordshire. 4. To ask the Leader to report annually to Council on progress towards making Herefordshire a county where all children and young people thrive. 		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
10 October 2025	Improving access to employment, education and leisure for young people aged 16–19 through bus provision	Proposals will be prepared in line with budget setting timescales.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>Council resolves</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support in principle the expansion of affordable, accessible bus travel for 16–19 year olds in Herefordshire to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve access to education, employment, and training 2. Reduce social isolation 3. Enhance health outcomes 2. Request the executive prepare proposals for inclusion in the 2026/27 budget for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The provision of a pilot extension of the transport assistance scheme for 16-19yr olds in education to enable travel on evenings, weekends and holidays. This pilot would include evaluation of impact. b. Identification of potential funding sources, including BSIP revenue grant and the Local Transport Grant revenue allocation; anticipated savings in other service areas 		

(e.g., Economy, Public Health); and bus operator partnership or sponsorship opportunities.

3. Request the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Transport, urging support for pilot schemes and action on the Transport Committee's recommendation to explore national free or discounted travel for young people, alongside long-term, devolved funding for bus services.

Community impact

- 8 Herefordshire Council's adopted code of corporate governance provides the framework for maintaining high standards of corporate governance in order to achieve the council's vision of "people, organisations and businesses working together to bring sustainable prosperity and well-being for all, in the outstanding natural environment of Herefordshire."
- 9 In accordance with the code, the long-term nature of many of Herefordshire Council's responsibilities mean that we should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable. Decisions should further the council's purpose, contribute to intended benefits and outcomes, and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available.

Equality duty

- 10 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 11 The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. If any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) consider taking some action, the cabinet will have regard to the equality duty when determining its response to the request.

Resource implications

- 12 None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) consider taking some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Legal implications

- 13 None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the

executive (cabinet) consider taking some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Risk management

- 14 None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) take some action the risks associated with such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Consultees

- 15 None.

Appendices — None

Background papers — none identified